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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA
AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 5 March 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 5 March 1993 from His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to you, concerning the tragic situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

I would appreciate if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gholamali KHOSHROO
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 5 March 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Secretary-General

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

The people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran received with shock, indignation and outrage the news of fresh and intensified Serbian aggression and barbarism against the defenceless people of eastern Bosnia. What is taking place in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina today is in fact the shameless continuation of the abhorrent policy of ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Serbs in order to create the Greater Serbia.

The latest report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the atrocities being committed by the Serbs point to the fact that Serbian forces are engaged in a large-scale massacre of Muslims in eastern Bosnia. Different information in public domain have also confirmed that the Serbian forces are killing Muslims, shelling the Muslim populated areas and forcing them to evacuate the cities in continuation of the abhorrent practice of ethnic cleansing.

Since the beginning of the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Security Council has adopted several resolutions and statements - the latest of which is the Presidential statement of 3 March 1993 - calling for a cease-fire and an end to hostilities. These calls, which have regrettably lacked any meaningful enforcement mechanism or even serious political will to that effect, have gone unheeded by the Serbian aggressors who have intensified their aggression and onslaught against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina with impunity. In view of the persistent Serbian intransigence and their blatant violations of every rule of humanity and universally recognized international humanitarian law, as well as their total disregard for the decisions of the international community, particularly those of the United Nations, the Security Council should reconsider its approach to this grave tragedy, remedy its past mistakes and begin to reverse the Serbian aggression and atrocious crimes by the full use of its authority under the Charter of the United Nations.

In this connection, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, like the majority of the membership of the international community, believes that in order to put an end to the Serbian aggression, the Security Council should adopt the following measures immediately:

(1) Since all parties involved in Bosnia and Herzegovina have signed the military agreement, the Council should immediately call for the cessation of hostilities and take effective measures prescribed in Chapter 7 of the Charter of the United Nations to stop continued Serbian aggression against Bosnian towns and villages, including those under occupation, seige and daily shelling;

(2) The war crimes tribunal should in fact be established without further delay and aggressors and criminals should be tried and punished in accordance with international law;

(3) The Security Council should enforce its resolution 770 (1992) expeditiously in order to guarantee the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Unless and until the Security Council succeeds in stopping the onslaught and genocide of the defenceless population of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the armed and well-equipped Serbs, the preclusion of the Government and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to exercise their inherent right to self-defence is not only unjust but morally and legally unjustified. If the Security Council is not prepared to shoulder its responsibilities by stopping the aggression and restoring Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity, it should at least enable the Bosnians to do so themselves through the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia and Herzegovina.